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STATE OF DELAWARE
BOARD OF PHARMACY

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PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE: BOARD OF PHARMACY – Patient Safety Committee Meeting

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 9:30 am

PLACE: Conference Room A, 2nd Floor Cannon Building
861 Silver Lake Blvd., Dover, DE 19904

APPROVED:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michelle McCreary – Chair
Kim Robbins, R.Ph.
Hooshang Shanehsaz, R.Ph.
Susan Esposito, R.Ph.
Joli Martini, R.Ph.
Jay Patel

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kenneth Sellers
Tejal Patel, PharmD

DIVISION STAFF/DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENT

Eileen Kelly, Deputy Attorney General
Christine Mast, Administrative Specialist III

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. McCreary called the meeting to order at 11:23 am.

MEETING MINUTES REVIEW

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Robbins, seconded by Ms. Esposito. The motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The committee opened the meeting with discussion of technician to pharmacist ratios. The committee members expressed concern of proper coverage of the pharmacy to allow pharmacists the required consultation time as well as personal needs breaks. The consensus of the committee is that this could present a public safety risk. The committee discussed regulation 3.8 which states the Pharmacist-In-Charge is responsible for proper coverage in the pharmacy, in reality the pharmacy permit holder is often in control of scheduled hours for support staff of the pharmacy. This regulation does not assist in preventing lack of coverage in the pharmacy. Discussion regarding changes in the regulation to change this requirement to the pharmacy permit holder. This would put the regulatory responsibility on the licensee who is the responsible party for the scheduling of pharmacy support staff.

The committee discussed the need for the current complaint process must be utilized to initiate an investigation against allegations of improper pharmacy support staff coverage.

This opened discussion regarding other states technician vs. pharmacist ratios and trained technicians. The committee discussed minimum ratios of technicians to pharmacist and how that would impact current business practices. The committee agreed that there should be a fully trained technician scheduled at all times a pharmacist is on duty. Ms. McCreary stated she would look into other states statutes and regulations and provide more details next meeting.

Ms. Kelly will complete updated draft 3.8 regulations for review as discussed above to be presented for approval at the next meeting.

The committee began conversation on Patient Discharge and Continuum of Care Issues. Ms. Esposito provided hospital setting discharge information from several local hospitals. Ms. Martini spoke about the hospital setting discharge information that she currently has experience with.

Mr. Shanehsaz stated that Delaware Health Information Network or DHIN was created to assist with providers needs to see all of the patient's medical records to provide the best care. Most hospitals in the area have purchased rights to this information. However, most providers have not due to the costs associated with access. The program still exists. Ms. Robbins suggested that discharge information should be sent to the patient's primary pharmacy. This would assist the pharmacist in providing the best possible care. The committee agreed that continuum of care is essential in providing public safety. The committee agreed the issue is attributable on many levels from patient, provider and institution. Ms. Esposito stated that the key to success is sharing of data. This would provide the needed medical information to better serve the public from a prescriptive perspective. Ms. McCreary shared that the Prescription Monitoring Program or PMP currently houses data on controlled substances available for review by the pharmacist. There are also discussions occurring to include non-controls to the PMP. If non-controls are included in the PMP it would greatly assist the pharmacist in providing care to the patient. Further discussion on this topic is required. This will continue on the agenda for further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2015 at 8:30 Am., Conference Room A 2nd floor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the committee. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Robbins, seconded by Ms. Martini. The motion unanimously carried at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Mast
Administrative Specialist III
Board of Pharmacy